



28th Feb

SARAH,

HAGAR &

ABRAHAM



Dear Parent/Guardian

The first term of the 2020/2021 Sunday school year we looked into the book of Acts, throughout this we learnt about the first church, and the journey of Paul. Together we looked at how the disciples continued God's mission after Jesus' resurrection. We saw the amazing conversion of Saul to Paul. During the Daniel fast we looked at Galatians, which also referenced Abraham, and the book of Daniel.

During these times we were reminded of the incredible things God did for us all, and the vast history and build up to the event of Jesus on the cross, the event that redeemed us all.

For the rest of the year we will be going back to the start and will be discovering some of the many many incredible people that were involved in the lead up to the resurrection story. We will be going through the old testament and learn about one character each week.

Teaching videos, stories and worksheets, and zoom calls will continue throughout this meet and greet. During the school holiday we have chosen that although Sunday school sessions, whether physical or online, will not run. However, we will be releasing teaching videos and the weekly story and worksheet will be available. We felt that as there are so many stories to learn about this was the best course of action to help your children learn the most that they can.
you

-The Children's Team

Sarah, Hagar & Abraham

Genesis 21-25

The Birth of Ishmael:

Even though God had promised Abram a child, he and Sarah still had no children. So one day Sarah grew impatient and decided to do God's work for him. So she told Abraham to have a child with her servant, Hagar.

Hagar became pregnant and began to mistreat Sarah. When Sarah spoke to Abram about it he told Sarah to treat Hagar how she wanted, because she was Sarah's slave. So Sarah began to mistreat Hagar and led to her running away from Sarah.

An angel of the Lord found Hagar. He told her to go back to Sarah and submit. God would increase her descendants so much that they would be too many to count. He told her to name her son Ishmael. He told her that the son will grow up with people's hands against him, and him against everyone. He will live in hostility towards his brothers. (Ishmael is the father of the religion Islam.)

Hagar knew that God had seen her and heard her cry, and she knew it was God that she had seen. So she did what was asked and remembered what the angel had told her. When Abram was 86 she gave birth to Ishmael.

The Birth of the Covenant of God and Man:

When Ishmael was 12 years old God visited Abraham and told him that he wanted to make an agreement with him, a covenant. First God gave Abram the new name of Abraham, as he would be the father of many nations and kings. God then told him that every male must be circumcised as a sign of the covenant between God and Abraham's descendants, every man born or brought into the household must be circumcised. Both God and man must keep their side of the covenant. Man following and worshiping God, and God will continue to bless man.

God then told Abraham that he had not forgotten his promise, and that Sarah would become pregnant and have a son who would be called Isaac. This is where the covenant line would start and continue from. Ishmael would be blessed because Abraham asked God to bless him.

That day Abraham took Ishmael and all the men in his household and were circumcised as a sign of the covenant.

The birth of Isaac:

Just like God had said, Sarah gave birth to Isaac a year later. When he was eight days old he was circumcised.

In celebration of the birth of Isaac Abraham threw a great feast. During the party Sarah saw Ishmael mocking. She told Abraham to get rid of him and Hagar because he would never share Isaac's inheritance. This upset Abraham because Ishmael was his son too. But God told Abraham not to worry about Hagar and Ishmael, do what Sarah has asked because her son is where your offspring will come from.

God then told Abraham that He would take care of Hagar and Ishmael and make him into a nation, because he was Abraham's son.

So Abraham gave Sarah food and water and sent them away. When the water ran out Hagar and Ishmael began to sob. God heard their crying and told Hagar to take the boy's hand and lift him up, He would make Ishmael a great nation. God then opened Hagar's eyes and she saw a great well filled with water.

God was with Ishmael as he grew up. He continued to live in the desert and became an archer. He married a Egyptian woman. He had 12 sons who became great tribe rulers and died at the age of 137.

TAKE-AWAY

From the story it is clear that God will always fulfill His promises to us. And that we should not try to force the promises in our own way, but let God do it.

Sarah and Abraham questioned God's promise and did not fully trust Him, so they took matters into their own hands. Because of their unnecessary help Hagar faced great sorrow and hardship. This would not have happened to her if Sarah and Abraham had trusted God and let Him do things.

When God gives us a promise we might not always see the result instantly, but we should never lose faith, or try to do it our own way.

But, we also see that even though Sarah and Abraham did the wrong thing, God did not leave them, or Hagar. God still honored Abraham and even made a special agreement with Him. God also blessed Hagar and Ishmael because of the agreement with Abraham. God is always faithful to us, even when we are not faithful to Him.

Prayer:

Is there a promise that God has given you?

If not spend some time with God and ask Him what promise He has for you.

Write down any promise God has for you or your family and thank Him for it. Ask Him to help keep you faithful

ACTIVITY:

- 1) Isaac and Ishmael are sons of Abraham. It is believed that Abraham is the father of Christianity, Judaism. And Islam (via Ishmael).

Take a sheet of paper and separate it into three sections.

Write the three faiths, one in each section. Write down the similarities that you can find. On another sheet do the same, and write all the differences of the three faiths.

- 2) Draw a flag, or family crest that includes the symbol of all three of these faiths.